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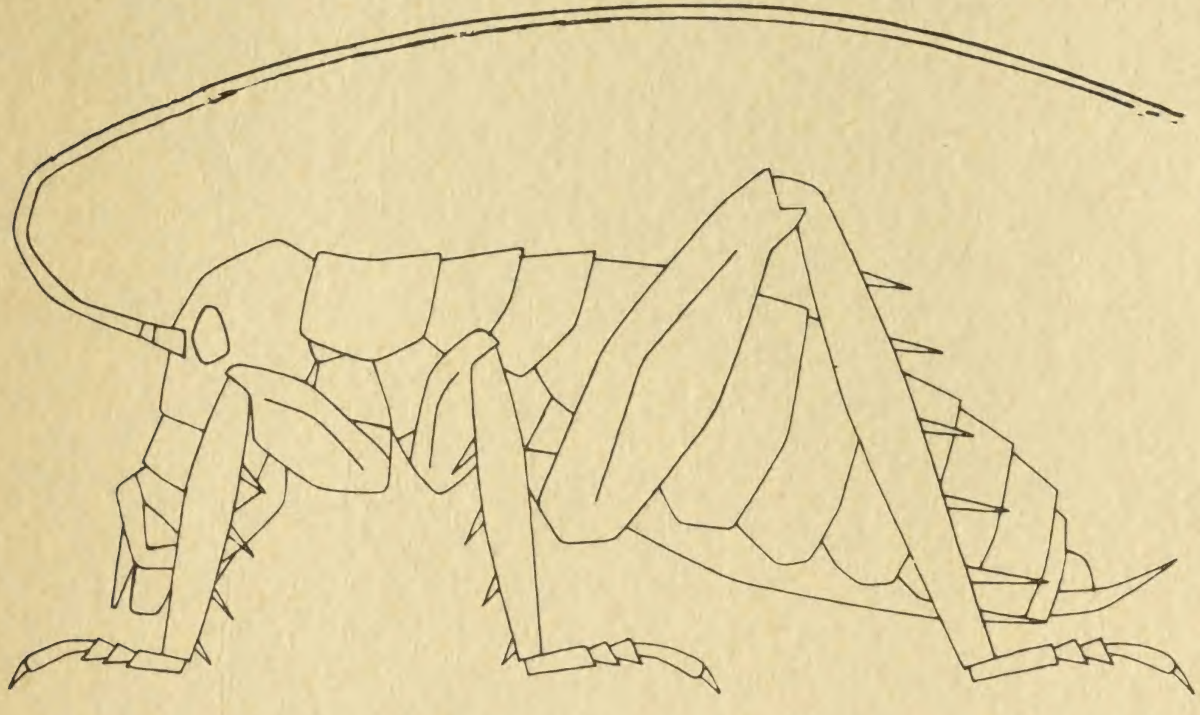
THE WETA



Newsbulletin of The Entomological Society of New Zealand Inc.

VOL. 7 NO. 3 1984

J.D. Tenquist,
Editor, The 'Weta',
Wallaceville Animal Research Centre,
Private Bag,
Upper Hutt.

ISSN 0111-7696

Publications available from the Entomological Society of New Zealand

Bulletins of the Entomological Society of New Zealand (ISSN 0110-4527)

Bulletin 2: Perspectives in aphid biology. 1973. 123 p. $10.50.

Bulletin 4: Standard names for common insects in New Zealand. 1978. 42 p. $2.00.

Bulletin 5: Guide to the aquatic insects of New Zealand. Michael J. Winterbourn and Katharine L. D. Gregson. 1981. 80 p. $9.00.

Bulletin 6: Photographing insects. Bruce B. Given. 1982. 32 p. $5.00.

Bulletin 7: Guide to New Zealand entomology. Graeme W. Ramsay and Pritam Singh. 1982. 72 p. $9.00.

New Zealand Entomologist (ISSN 0077-9962)

Volumes 1, 4(3), 1970 — 6(4), 1978, $6.00 per issue (9 issues); 7 1979-82, $8.00 per issue (4 issues).

The Weta, news bulletin of the Entomological Society of N.Z. 2 issues per year, $1.00 each.

The preparation and curation of insects. Annette K. Walker and Trevor K. Crosby. 1979. *N.Z. DSIR information series 130.* 55 p. (ISSN 0077-9636). $2.50.

Identification chart of New Zealand butterflies. Drawings by British artist Brian Hargreaves, text by George W. Gibbs. 1980. $3.00. This 400 × 600mm wall chart features 52 life-size paintings in full colour, with brief notes on distribution, food plants, and diagnostic features.

Letter cards. 4 colourful cards featuring butterflies from the identification chart. Write your own message on the inside. Envelopes provided. 30c each, 10 for $2.50.

These publications may be ordered from: Mrs B. M. May, distributions secretary, Entomological Society of N.Z., 6 Ocean View Road, HUIA, Auckland. Prices are in New Zealand currency. Please enclose payment with your orders; overseas orders add $1.00 to cover additional surface-mail postage and packing costs. A free list of all publications available from the Society can be obtained from Mrs May at the above address.

The Entomological Society of New Zealand (Incorporated)

The Society was founded in 1951 to provide a common meeting ground for everyone interested in entomology in New Zealand. It publishes an annual journal, the "New Zealand Entomologist", and occasional bulletins, and holds a conference in May each year. It has helped to prepare the computerised information retrieval database "Bibliography of the non-marine invertebrates of the New Zealand region"; searches of this are available through the library interloan system.

Anyone interested in joining the Society or wanting further information should contact: Mrs S. Millar, Secretary, Entomological Society of N.Z. (Inc.), 8 Maymorn Road, TE MARUA, Upper Hutt.

21st Anniversary Research Fund. This fund was set up in 1973 to foster the objectives of the Society ("The improvement and diffusion of entomological knowledge in New Zealand"). Contributions or gifts to this fund by individuals or companies are welcomed; the Commissioner for Inland Revenue recognises that payments to the fund are tax-deductible. (Information:

Mr R. L. Palma, National Museum, Private Bag, Wellington).

Applications for grants from the fund can be made by both members and non-members and societies or groups. The applications are referred to a Grants Committee comprising 3 people (a Convenor, President of the Royal Society of N.Z., President of the Entomological Society of N.Z.) for consideration and decision, and the successful applicants are announced at the annual conference. Since 1975 over $10 000 has been awarded in 35 grants. Applications close at the end of February each year. Further information and application forms are available from: Mrs S. Millar, Secretary, Entomological Society of N.Z. (Inc.), 8 Maymorn Road, Te Marua, Upper Hutt.

THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

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Fortitude Valley AUSTRALIA 4006

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Just When the society is going so well, we get a 'hiccup' - Allen Heath recently called together the known members in Wellington to a special meeting to discuss the future of the Wellington branch. 14 people turned up but no one wanted to be Chairman or Secretary.

One has only to read the "Weta" (Go on, read it) to find out what other branches are doing - Both Auckland and Dunedin are going from strength to strength and I hear a branch is to be formed in Christchurch and Palmerston North is also going well. -C'mon, Capital city what about showing these outposts of the Empire what can be done.

Fire! Fire! The 15th day after

Trevor K. Crosby and Grace Hall

Entomology Division, DSIR, Private Bag, Auckland

"The Charming Creek Valley is not so charming now". Gwenny Davis, Native Forests Action Council, reported in Westport News 18 February 1982.

"I know no sight more sad than to witness the destruction by fire of forests on the hill-sides -- those mournful streaks sweeping along the more accessible sides of the ranges, with blackened trunks like Banquo's ghosts here and there in the midst -- without parallel the most melancholy spectacle of wasteful destruction" (Knight 1875: 474).

On 16 February 1982 the N.Z. Forest Service burnt about 120 ha of clearfelled native forest at Charming Creek (41°35' S, 175°58' E, altitude ca 200 m), Mokihinui State Forest 55, Buller region. The land was hilly and steep, and it was in an area zoned for the growing of exotic trees in the Draft Buller Regional Forest Management Plan (Forest Service 1981). The native beech and podocarp forest was considered by the Forest Service to be unsuitable for timber production, and the site had been clearfelled some months beforehand in readiness for conversion to Pinus radiata. The felled forest was allowed to dry out over the summer period. At burning an accelerant was used to achieve a complete hot burn. About a week before the burnoff the Wildlife Service had released a report recommending that the area should have remained in forest because it was one of the main habitats for the snail Powelliphanta lignaria johnstoni, a protected species under the Wildlife Act.

When the area was visited on 3 March 1982 by TKC, a member of a DSIR investigative group for the Buller region, the whole burnt area had no greenery present whatsoever -- the hot burn had completely removed all surface vegetation and only stumps and large bare branches remained. Litter and fine roots remained unburnt about 1-2 cm below the blackened surface layer.

On the surface there were a large number of dead Powelliphanta shells and remains of pill millipedes. A collection of surface material and litter was taken near the centre of the burnoff. The material was chosen from an area of about 10 square metres so as to embrace the diverse microhabitats generally present in forests, such as litter around the bases of trees and under fallen logs, the fermentation litter layer, humification horizon, and soil. About 2 shoeboxes of material were obtained, an amount usually obtained in Entomology Division samples. Back in Auckland 6 days later the live animals were extracted into ethanol with a Berlese funnel, and the material was then hand-sorted to collect fragments of arthropods and molluscs. This note records the fauna that was present.

Results

Invertebrates present

MOLLUSCA
Fam. Paryphantidae. Powelliphanta lignaria johnstoni Powell. Many burnt shells on the surface, 2 burnt shells collected. No live specimens. The subspecies is restricted in distribution to this part of the Buller region (Powell 1979).
Unidentified family and species, 2 small shells collected dead.

CHILOPODA, unidentified family and species, 1 small specimen extracted by Berlese funnel.

DIPLOPODA
Fam. Sphaerotheridae, pill millipedes (det. B.A. Holloway).
Procyliosoma delacyi striolatum (Pocock). Many burnt fragments of individuals were conspicuous on the surface of the burnt area, 3 dead specimens were in the collection. The subspecies is widespread in the Nelson and West Coast area (Holloway 1956).
Unidentified family and species, 1 small specimen extracted by Berlese funnel.

ACARI, about 130 specimens (det. G.W. Ramsay), all extracted by Berlese funnel.

Mesostigmata
Fam. Parasitidae. Parasitus sp., numerous deutonymphs, over 100. This is the dispersal stage of the species and the deutonymphs may have been carried into the area on a bird or other carrier. It is less likely they survived the fire as eggs and nymphs deep down in the soil.

All the following species of Acari may have survived the fire deep down in the soil.
Fam. Ologamasidae. Caliphis novaezealandiae (Womersley), 1 female.
Fam. Rhodacaridae. Antennolaelaps n.sp. 1, 1 female; Antennolaelaps n.sp. 2, 1 female.
Fam. Uropodidae. 1 female.

Cryptostigmata
Fam. Otocepheidae. Pseudotocepheus curtiseta Hammer, 4 specimens.
Fam. Oppiidae. Lanceoppia vaneki Hammer, 1 specimen.
Fam. Oribatulidae. Liebstadia similis (Michael), 1 specimen; Scheloribates anzacensis Hammer, 1 specimen.
Fam. Galumnidae. Acrogalumna longiplumus (Berlese), 1 specimen.

COLLEMBOLA, 3 specimens extracted by Berlese funnel.

COLEOPTERA (det. J.C. Watt) extracted by Berlese funnel.
Fam. Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae. 16 adults and 4 larvae of 1 species. The adults fly readily, and probably had recolonised the area. It is less likely they survived the fire.
Fam. Scarabaeidae, Scarabaeinae. Saphobius sp., 1 specimen (short, non-functional wings). May have survived the burnoff deep down in the soil.

DIPTERA. Most likely these had recolonised the area, although some

may have been pupating deeper in the soil and survived. All specimens were extracted by the Berlese funnel.
Fam. Sciaridae. 12 adults.
Fam. Sphaeroceridae. 30 adults.
Unidentified family, 1 small larva. Diptera larvae are usually common in litter collections.

HYMENOPTERA (det. E.W. Valentine)
Fam. Cynipidae. Kleidotoma sp., 3 adults extracted by Berlese funnel. In pastures these are parasites of small Diptera such as Sciaridae. They may have survived the fire in pupating Diptera, but more likely had recolonised the area.

ABSENT
1. Groups commonly found in litter collections:
Amphipoda, Isopoda, Opiliones, Pseudoscorpiones, Araneae, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera: Formicidae, Lepidoptera, Psocoptera, Thysanoptera.
2. Groups occasionally found in litter collections:
Blattodea, Dermaptera, Symphyla, Thysanura.

Discussion

Very few invertebrates were present in the collection compared with what would be expected in collections from undisturbed habitats (McColl 1974, 1975). The absence of groups such as Araneae, Isopoda, and Lepidoptera larvae was particularly striking as they are usually conspicuous in forest litter collections from the West Coast (Dugdale 1974; McColl 1974). Also numbers of individuals and species were very reduced in other groups such as Acari and Collembola compared with some West Coast numbers (McColl 1974). Some species present were not typical litter-inhabiting species but were likely to be pioneers arriving in the 2 weeks after the fire. A few of the deeper litter-dwelling species, such as some Acari, may have survived the burning. The extent of the reduction in the fauna is similar to the results reported by Miller et al. (1955) for a burnoff of gorse/manuka scrub at Taita near Wellington. They are also comparable to results observed at Waitangi State Forest, Northland (R. Kleinpaste, pers. comm.).

In conclusion, although litter remained below the burnt surface layer, the heat of the burnoff was apparently sufficiently great to kill nearly all invertebrates, even those that may have been at some depth. It would be of great interest to undertake an entomological study of an area of native forest destined for conversion to exotic forest, similar to that done by Miller et al. (1955) for the conversion of gorse/manuka to grassland, so the fauna composition can be studied before and after burning.

The specimens of this collection (82/44) are held in the New Zealand Arthropod Collection at Entomology Division, DSIR, Auckland.

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Continued from page 88

Annette Walker, Ent.Div.DSIR, explained what thrips were, where they are found and how they are collected and classified in a talk entitled "Thrips are Everywhere" Her talk was illustrated with colour slides, drawings and microscope slides with examples of damage by thrips.

A quiz to identify insect drawings to Order was held. Discussion was held on the planning of the next conference which is to be held in Auckland.

Olwyn Green
AUCKLAND CORRESPONDENT

OCCUPATIONAL ALLERGIES TO ARTHROPODS - ARE YOU AFFLICTED ?

R L Brock
17C Balfour Street
Mornington Wellington 2

Allergy or hypersensitivity is an accelerated and amplified reaction of the body to a specific substance after antibodies have been produced against it following a prior exposure. Susceptibility varies according to the individual as well as to the degree and duration of exposure to allergens. The resulting condition can be unpleasant, debilitating, or even life threatening. Overseas surveys (Wirtz 1980, Bellas 1983) have highlighted the risk to entomologists of allergies arising from occupational exposure to insects and other arthropods. While few instances of this have been recorded in New Zealand, it is advisable for entomologists to be aware of the potential hazard.

Allergies to arthropods result from sensitisation to proteinaceous material such as hairs, setae, scales, exuviae, faeces, silk and dried material from dead insects (Bellas 1983). Additionally, allergic reactions can occur to the saliva of biting arthropods and to the venom of stinging Hymenoptera. Apart from the bites and stings, allergies are initiated by the inhalation of airborne material or by contact. The reactions can include hayfever-like symptoms of sneezing and a runny nose, skin or eye irritation, difficulty with breathing and anaphylactic (allergic) shock.

Procedures to reduce the risk of arthropod allergies are discussed by Wirtz (1980). These include adequate air circulation and filtration, laboratory hygiene and the use of protective equipment such as face masks and gloves.

The incidence of occupational allergies among entomologists has been surveyed in the United States by Wirtz (1980) and in Australia by Bellas (1983). Wirtz found at least one allergic person in 50 of the 84 institutions that responded to his survey. A total of 77 (67 per cent) of the 115 individual respondents attributed their allergy to Lepidoptera and 33 of these to the gypsy moth, Lymantria dispar Linnaeus. For Australia, however, Bellas reported Orthoptera as the largest source of allergies.

In response to a request for information from Dr Bellas, I surveyed the delegates at the annual Entomological Society Conference last May. I received only two reports of occupational allergies through this - a skin irritation from the hairs of lepidopteran larvae which arose when the victim was working overseas and an aggravation of a sinus condition by adult Lepidoptera. In addition, there are two literature records. Dugdale, quoted in Southcott (1978), reported respiratory irritation among the sorters of light traps and Donovan (1978) described anaphylactic shock resulting from stings of bumble bees, Bombus terrestris (Linnaeus).

Workers in other occupations can also be at risk of arthropod allergies. The allergenic species of mites present in New Zealand are listed by Tenquist and Charleston (1981) and myself (Brock 1982). Most are pests of stored food products. Manson (1970) described skin irritation among flax workers, resulting from crushed spider mites.

If the apparently low incidence of arthropod allergies in New Zealand is genuine, it may reflect that there is little prolonged mass rearing of arthropods in this country. I would be very interested to receive any further reports of these allergies that may have been experienced by readers.

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A feature of the Dunedin Conference was the number of complaints about lack of communication between Entomologists in general throughout NZ. PHDS has a monthly report that is circulated thoughout the division and includes a summary of what insects are common in that particular month and new records. Do other institutions do this and if so, why don't we have some sort of central referencing point with relevant information published say, in the Weta? One suggestion was a column entitled:

WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH?

If anyone has any ideas, please let me know. (JT)

A SUSPECTED BITE BY LATRODECTUS KATIPO

J.D. TENQUIST

12 Bethune Street

FEATHERSTON

While holidaying at Waikanae Beach during the last week of January 1984 my wife suddenly felt very ill and within minutes her temperature went from a known normal of 37 °C to 38.8 °C while her pulse rate went from a known normal of 70 to 125. Shivering and nausea set in immediately and she also complained of pain around her left ankle and in the inguinal lymph nodes.

My wife does not normally react so violently to insect bites and is in good health, but does have an artificial leg. An immediate visit to a local GP was indicated and he diagnosed a 'insect bite' or 'thrombosis', treating for the former with aspirin and antibiotic. He considered that bed rest for 24 hours would resolve the problem. We returned to our cottage and my wife remained in bed for 24 hours but the nausea and pain persisted during that period and allowed her very little sleep. After 24 hours, the nausea and fever diminished rapidly and allowed her to travel the 90 km by car to our own home, but the leg pains continued. Forty eight hours after the onset of the symptoms, a large reaction was evident on the lower limb so a visit to our own local GP was made. He had experience overseas with spider bites and immediately diagnosed it as such. Prescribing stronger pain killers and antihistamines, a different antibiotic and bed rest for seven days. The patient's temperature remained high after 48 hours and the pulse rate did not return to normal for 7 days.

Pain in the lower limb was eased only if the limb was elevated. Swelling persisted for 10 days and the leg was painful to walk on, relief only being obtained by keeping the limb elevated. Two weeks after the attack, the patient was able to resume work and no further symptoms have been observed.

The cottage we rented was about 200 metres from the beach, but was built on sand. The whole area was well kept with no dunnage lying around. The lawn was almost entirely paspalum.

My wife had spent some time on the beach sitting in marram grass the previous evening and it was subsequently established that there are populations of Latrodectus katipo in that immediate vicinity. It seems likely that she was bitten by L. katipo and a close examination of the focus of the inflammed area of her leg showed two small 'pin pricks' about 1 mm apart, consistent with a spider bite. (The cherlicerae of a katipo spider will inflict such a wound.)

The symptoms experienced are consistent with those previously recorded from Latrodectus sp. (Southcott, 1976). Southcott reviews literature that suggests Lactrodectus bites

are noticed immediately but were relatively painless. Pain increased however over a period of a few minutes to about 30 minutes.

Watt (1971) describes a bite by a Clubionid spider which produced instant pain, O'Donnell (1983) records cases of previously unpublished records of spider bites in New Zealand including Clubionidae, Salticidae, Theriidae, Araneidae, Dysiderae and Gnaphasidae, most of which caused distress in one form or another. Hornibrook (1951) gives a brief history of the effects of the katipo in New Zealand.

In this present record, my wife had been on the beach the previous evening and the time factor presents a problem, as all records suggested symptoms being noticed within half an hour. The symptoms were not manifest until 12 hours after. It is of course quite possible that the spider (if in fact it was a spider) had been picked up on the beach in a towel, or my wife's artificial leg and had not been disturbed until the following morning. The evidence is almost overwhelming in support of L. katipo being the culprit.

References

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MITES ON A CRICKET TAKEN AT GREEN MEADOWS,NAPIER HB

T H Davies
84 Beach Rd Haumoana

On April 21st 1983 at Greanmeadows, Napier, the Author collected a male black field cricket (*Teleogryllus commodus* (Walker)) heavily infested with mites; another cricket which escaped was also covered with mites.

The mites were massed on the body, tibiae and other leg segments but were also present on the elytra, head, thorax and sternal region. The crickets were found amongst mushroom compost and the large number of mites did not appear to impede the crickets in any way. 320 mites were found on the captured insect and were deutonymphs of a species belonging to the family Uropodidae. The mites were attached to the cricket by a fibre secreted by the anal glands of the mite. Members of this family are a large cosmopolitan group and are often found in birds nests as well as being insect associates. The larval stages and adults are

found in forest litter and soil detritus. The deutonymphs found on insects leave their carrier only after moulting to the adult stage.

The deutonymphs found on this cricket were probably feeding on the fungus in the compost. Graeme Ramsay believes there must have been a large population of mites in the compost which led to over-population and special dispersal nymphs were produced. The dispersal mechanism is commonly used by certain mites and other arthropods as well as some nematodes - Pseudoscorpions have been found on flies on a number of occasions.

The cricket also carried a number of hypopi belonging to acarid and histiostomid mites in the same dispersal stage.

I would like to thank Graeme Ramsay for examining the cricket and mites and for determination of same.

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I found this in my wife's library the other day - it's not very nice!

THE UNWELCOME CALLER

Poem by Jean Smith

A horrid little Weta came a-hopping in my house;
I'm not afraid of creatures, like a lion or a mouse,
But Wetas, they are different and they make me squirm inside.
I really can't abide those bugs, no matter how I've tried.

Their leapings and cavortings and other nasty tricks
And all those funny arms and legs that look like bunched up sticks.
I find so unattractive, and I shudder at the sight.
However would I cope if Wetas called in dark of night?

I watched that horrid Weta go hopping on my floor
And though I shooed it loudly, it stayed inside the door.
So then, to haste its going, I bundled up the bug
In shroud of hanky tissue, quite out of sight and snug;
I rushed it to the bathroom and flushed it down the loo.
It's now a sadder Weta and a wetter Weta too!

THE BROUN DINNER

O.R. Green, Secretary, Auckland Branch

The idea of holding a formal dinner for the Auckland Branch seemed a good one, so it was organized for the 14th August 1983, and titled in honour of Major T. Broun, being near the anniversary of his death. Dr Charles Watt was invited to be the guest speaker (as a Coleopterist of the present) and he filled us in with notes and anecdotes of this pioneer of New Zealand Coleoptera. Langton's Restaurant on the slopes of Mt Eden was chosen for the venue, having a separate room for group hire. Thirty-seven people attended and enjoyed themselves so much that it was decided to make the dinner an annual event for the Branch. The caterers even iced a special cake for us with a beetle on top (which nobody tried to place to family level)! The meal consisted of a smorgasbord with a great variety of dishes to choose from. Committee member Claude Buchanan had his own idea of what we were eating.....

MENU

ENTREE:

PUDDING OF LEIOPROCTUS FULVESCENS

CASE OF FAGGOT MOTH STUFFED WITH EGG OF LEPIDOPTERA

SOUP:

FLAX WEEVIL SOUP WITH WHOLE COCOON

BROUN WINDSOR SOUP

MAIN COURSE:

BOILED CAVE WETA WITH MAYONNAISE

HUHU GRUB IN PHYLLO PASTRY WITH BROUN SAUCE

BEE LARVA FRITTERS

MAGPIE MOTH PIE

SWEET:

LEPIDOPTERA WING COATED WITH CHOCOLATE

GRASSHOPPER PIE GARNISHED WITH CRYSTALISED LADYBIRDS.

VEGETABLES:

BROUN HASH

CHOPPED VEGETABLE BUG

CARROT FLY

If this has whet your appetite, join us for the next annual dinner which will be at the same venue on 19 August 1984 when guest speaker Dr Ross Galbreath will address us on EARLY ENTOMOLOGISTS.

A NOTE ON THE POOR KNIGHTS WETA *DEINACRIDA FALLAI* (ORTHOPTERA: STENOPELMATIDAE)

Communicated by J Charles Watt
Entomology Division
DSIR Private Bag Auckland

The following observations (slightly paraphrased) were made by Dr Paul Sagar, 38A Yardley St., Christchurch, during ornithological studies on Aorangi Island, Poor Knights Islands:

1 May 1983. A gravid female weta (*Deinacrida fallai*) was found on Whau (*Entelea arborescens*) at Tuatara Pool. As we were banding and weighing bellbirds (*Anthornis melanura*) close by, we took the opportunity to weigh the weta (on a 50 g "Pesola" spring balance), and found it weighed 44 grams.

5 May 1983. While banding petrels near Tuatara pool at 2100hrs a female giant weta was observed on the forest floor, ovipositing into the litter. The weta appeared to be standing normally, except that it held its ovipositor in a vertical position. What appeared to be a group of small while eggs had been deposited in the litter. No obvious scrape or hole had been prepared to receive the eggs. In this situation the eggs would appear to be very susceptible to disturbance by blackbirds, spotless crakes and lizards.

The significance of these observations is that (1) some adult female wetas weigh more than bellbirds; and (2) that they have not previously been observed ovipositing in the field, although oviposition in the laboratory was recorded by Richards (1973).

Reference

Richards. A.M., 1973. A Comparative study of the Biology of the Giant Wetas *Deinacrida heteracantha* and *D.fallai* (Orthoptera: Henicidae) from New Zealand. *Journal of Zoology* 169: 195-236

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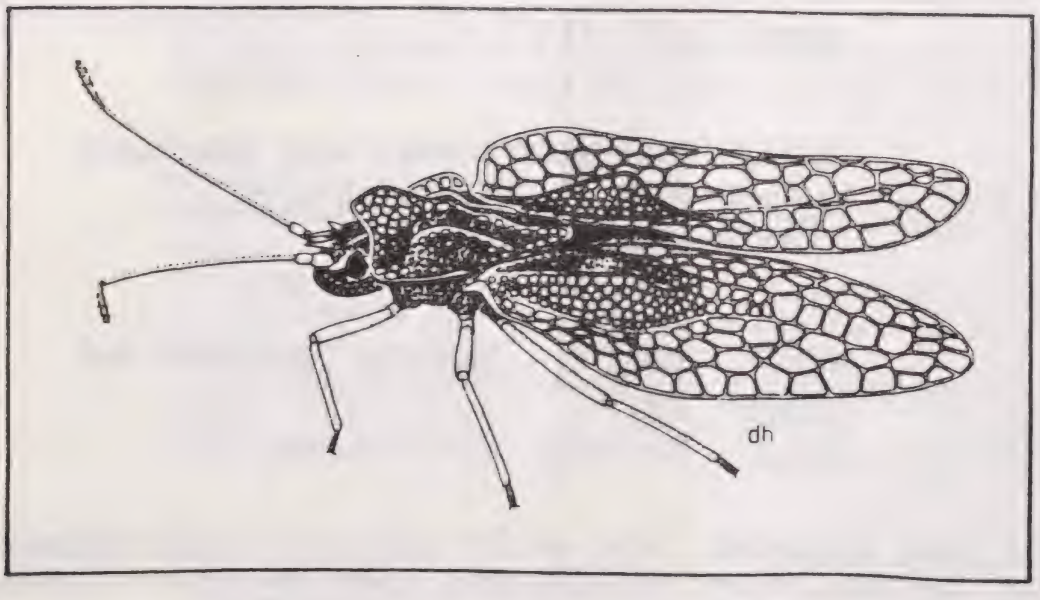


Tanybyrsa cumberi Drake, 1959. Hemiptera-Heteroptera: Tingidae. A lacebug.

A DIAGNOSTIC AID

O.R. Green
Plant Health Station, MAF, P.B. Auckland

There are two species of parasitic hymenoptera which can be very easily confused in New Zealand. These are Glabridorsum stokesii Cameron (Fig. 1) and Xanthocryptus novozealandicus Dalla Torre, female illustrated in Miller (1971), Plate 3, Fig. 1. (both Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae).

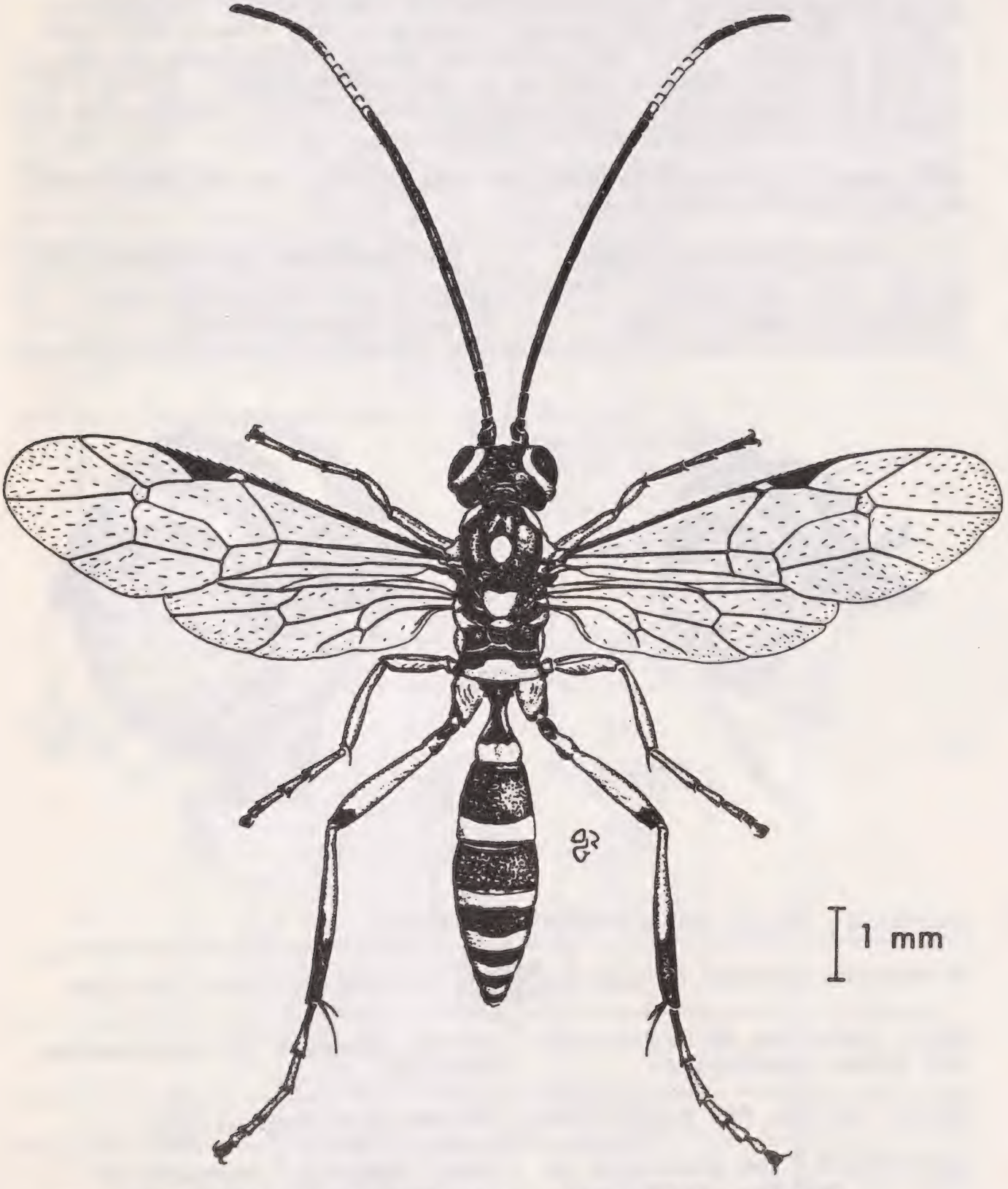


Figure 1. Glabridorsum stokesii (male) dorsal view.

The major distinguishing feature between the two species is the white ring which completely encircles the orbit of the eye in G. stokesii (Fig. 2a), whereas in X. novozealandicus it is broken by black spaces (Fig.2b). G. stokesii is generally smaller than X. novozealandicus, although there is some overlap in size. The former is a pupal parasite of Tortricidae and other Lepidoptera in similar habitats; the latter of wood boring beetle larvae. Previously published records of X. novozealandicus from noctuid hosts are dubious (Valentine, 1967). The name 'Glabridorsum' refers to its almost hairless thorax (Townes, 1969) and there are fewer punctations on the thorax of this species than on X. novozealandicus. There are also less distinctive morphological differences between the two tribes to which these genera belong.

The main differences between the two species can be summarised in the following table....

Glabridorsum stokesii	Xanthocryptus novozealandicus
White ring completely encircling orbit of eye	White areas around eye not forming complete ring

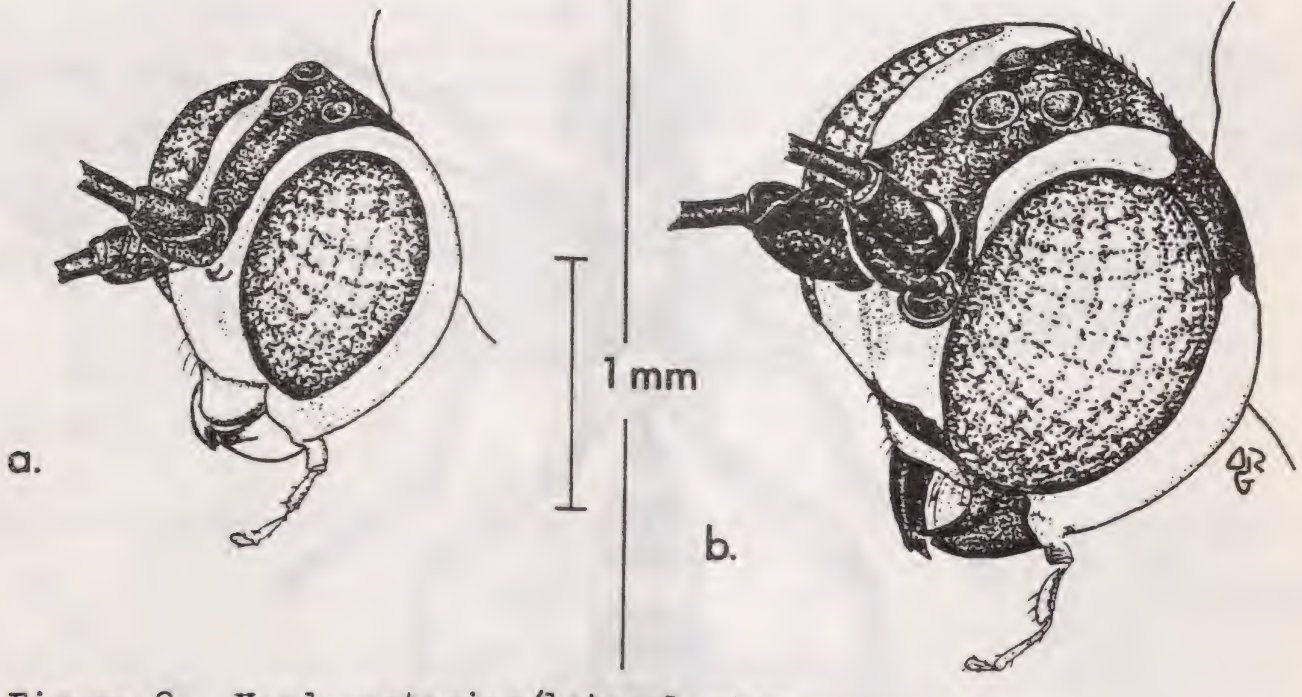


Figure 2. Head, anterior/lateral view.

Generally smaller in size	some overlap	Generally larger in size
Pupal parasite of Tortricidae and other Lepidoptera		Larval parasite of wood boring beetles
Shiny thorax, few punctations		Thorax with punctations
Introduced from Australia to N.Z. to control leafrollers		Found naturally throughout Australasia/Indo-Malaysia

I would like to thank Errol Valentine, Entomology Division, DSIR for his helpful comments.

REFERENCES

Miller, D. 1971: Common Insects of New Zealand. A.H. & A.W. Reed, Wellington, 178pp.

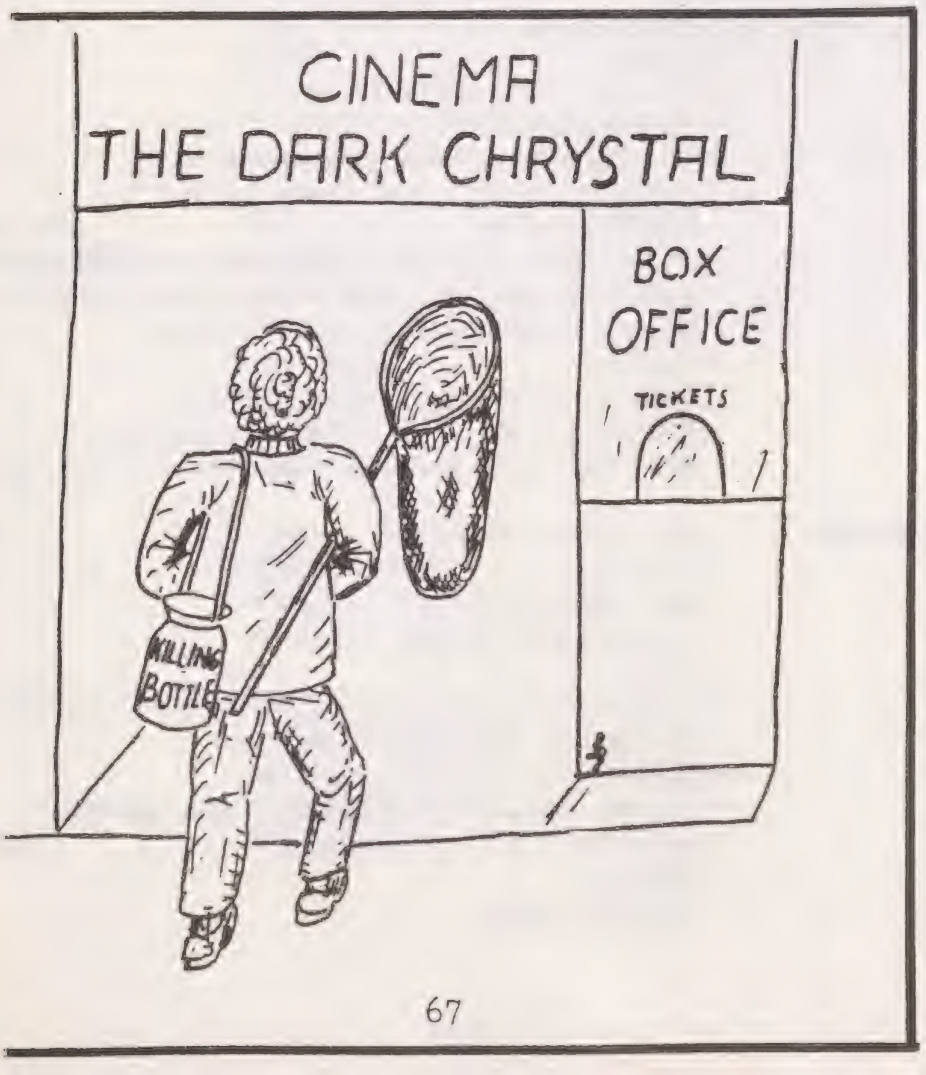
Valentine, E.W. 1967: A List of the Hosts of Entomophagous Insects of New Zealand. New Zealand Journal of Science, Vol. 10(4) 1100-1210.

Townes, H. 1969: Genera of Ichneumonidae. Part II Gelinae. Memoirs of the American Entomological Institute, No. 12 p174.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

Glabridorsum stokesii was introduced into N.Z. from Australia in the late 1960's by Warren Thomas of Entomology Division, DSIR because of its potential as a leafroller parasite. It has since proved to be an important parasite of the subsequently introduced Oriental Fruit Moth, Cydia molesta, in the Auckland region. Any records of the occurrence of this species (with or without host records) would be much appreciated by Derek Russell who is currently working on the Oriental Fruit Moth. Records south of the Auckland urban area are few and far between, which is surprising as the species was released in many localities in both the North and South Islands.

Address for Correspondence: D.A. Russell
Zoology Department
University of Auckland
P.B.
AUCKLAND



CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

The following is intended to be a guide for anyone landed with the job of conference organisation. Faced with this problem myself, I drew up the checklist afterwards in the hope of never having again to be faced with feelings of utter confusion and mind-bending panic.

The checklist is, as with all lists, telegraphic in presentation but should be fully comprehensible. It can be added to or the instructions amplified according to personal need and preference.

Allen Heath

VENUES

- Registration area (and desks)
- Lecture room
- Executive meeting room and AGM
- Room for evening or poster function
- Conference dinner
- Morning and afternoon teas
- Accommodation
- Lunches
- Restaurants (for alternative meals; snacks etc)
- Field trips

FACILITIES

(a) LECTURE ROOM

- Lighting (familiarise yourself with these and ensure that speakers do also)
- Blackboard
- Chalk
- Pointer
- Power points
- Overhead projector and spare bulb
- Slide projector and spare bulb
- Projectionist
- Anticipate 2 of each projector therefore 3 screens a possible need:- Need remote control for projector
- Site for screen e.g. table, bench
- Lectern
- Lamp (reading type for speaker)
- Drinking water and cups for speaker
- Heating (cold lecture theatres are not good)

(b) POSTER SESSION

- Boards for display
- Blue tak
- Map pins
- Drawing pins
- Tape
- Cord
- Tables or chairs
- Supper
- Drinks (wine, fruit juice, tea, coffee)
- Nibbles
- Glasses
- ?Music; tapes

(c) PHOTO SESSION
- Arrange for photographer
- Venue - alternative for wet weather (needs forms or chairs if inside and power points for lamps)

(d) BANK ACCOUNT
- May need to open a special account for prepayment of deposits of accommodation etc.

Alternatively treasurer could handle all this!

(e) REGISTRATION
- Venue
- Tables (3 preferably - one for publications)
- Paper
- Pencils, pens, felt pens
- Name tags
- Small signs to denote society or registration desk - to go on tables
- Notice board with lists, timetables etc on it, together with drawing pins and a pencil attached to board.

(f) EXECUTIVE MEETING
- Chairs
- 2 tables
- Tea, coffee and water boiling facilities (sugar, milk, biscuits)

(g) CONFERENCE DINNER
- Caterer
- Per capita charge arranged
- Drinks before, during and after (make sure who is providing those. If you are not, make sure wines are satisfactory)
- License (check if yours or caterer's responsibility)
- Heating (large rooms often are draughty)
- Cleaning up (before and after)
- Who holds keys; when to be returned
- Music
- Entertainment
- Flowers as decorations
- Ensure toilets are open, clean and have paper

(h) MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEAS
- Tea
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Milk
- Hot water
- Biscuits
- ?Fruit juice
- Cost

(i) LUNCHES
- Cost
- Meal tickets
- Venue (local or away)
- Menu (perhaps publicise)

(j) RESTAURANTS (for snacks or meals off-campus)
- Locality map
- Menus - post on noticeboard
- Costs
- Transport to and from

(k) ACCOMMODATION
- Venues (maps required)
- Numbers requiring accommodation (on and off campus)
- Singles, twins (rooms!)
- Male and female requirements (rooms again!!!)
- Ensure cancellations made in plenty of time
- Know where keys can be picked up by late arrivals
- Costs

(l) FIELD TRIP
- Sites
- Times and dates
- Transport
- Clothing, food
- Cost

MISCELLANEOUS

(a) LISTS
- Requiring transport to and from airport
- " " " " " dinner
- " " " " " anywhere else
- Contact phone numbers
- Timetables (air, train, bus)
- Times required to travel to various localities (shopping, restaurants etc)

(b) MAPS
- City
- Campus
- Restaurants
- Theatres (newspaper advert of recent screenings and live theatre)
- Hotels
- Shopping centres
- Banks, Post Office

(c) SIGNS
- Large signs on campus pointing to venues with Entomology Society logo
- Large signs at venues pointing to rooms

(d) PROGRAMME
- Symposium title and speakers (and Chairmen). Finalise by last week before Christmas (This applies to invited speakers)
- Other topics. These are contributed, but ask for papers in December.
- List all authors, using first names, instead of titles. Also give applications.
- List venues and times of other functions on programme

REFERENCES

(1) Moody R.W. 1977. Chairmanship and meeting procedure. MAF Advisory aid booklet No. 9, 34 pp.

(2) Ways with Words 1976 (eds G. Moss & J. Magurk) Wellington, Government Printer. (A MAF advisory aid) [Contains hints for conference organisers]

C O U N T D O W N

(a rough guide to controlled panic)

5-6 MONTHS BEFOREHAND

- Open bank account
- Work out how much registration costs will be
- Symposium speakers and chairmen should be sorted out
- Call for abstracts and give a final date for these e.g. 2 weeks before conference
- Accommodation and conference dinner venues etc should be finalised (may have to be sooner with accommodation and caterer)
- Entertainment should be finalised if being used
- Approach firms etc for pens or pads or satchels if required

2-3 MONTHS BEFOREHAND

- Contributed papers should start rolling in by now (ha!ha!)
- Check caterer and all venues again
- Call for subcommittee reports (president's responsibility probably)
- Check that all licenses (drinking) are finalised

ONE MONTH BEFOREHAND

- Make enquiries re food and drinks for poster session
- Programmes should have gone out by now or in a week's time. Add any notes (in a newsletter accompanying programme) re other conferences on at same time.

TWO WEEKS BEFOREHAND

- Cancel all unwanted accommodation
- Recheck things that should have been done at 1 month stage
- Ensure you have at least one vehicle for your own transport purposes for the period of the conference

ONE WEEK BEFOREHAND

- Check whereabouts of keys for dinner venue
- Check all accommodation is okay (i.e. all available)
- Try out lecture hall lighting for familiarisation
- Try out projectors and screen positions
- Get all abstracts together (? prepare a cover)
- Get all pens, pencils, paper, pins etc etc together
- Ensure liquor is ordered - perhaps in a cool store by this time
- Check on how it is to be paid for.
- Find out who needs transport from airports and who can supply transport

ONE DAY BEFOREHAND

- Panic!!
- Be on hand to meet executive
- Ensure room is open for executive meeting and tea, coffee etc available
- Ensure transport providers know times of arrivals and flight numbers (provide a list of names)
- Final cancellation of unwanted accommodation
- Meet early arrivals (who may come late in the evening - have their keys ready or a notice letting them know where to pick up keys etc)

EACH DAY

- Notices re meals, transport, photographs, field trips, changes in programme, money owed etc etc

LAST DAY

- Final thanks for all help and helpers
- Final transport requirements
- Hand back all keys
- Pack up all gear
- RELAX

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Overseas pests

SIR, I am amazed to read in your paper that a colony of red-back spiders have been discovered in a beehive in the North Island and an entymologist of sorts is proposing that they be left, so he can see how they survive in winter.

If they can survive the winters in Central Otago, which we have read that they can, what is the point? I cannot understand why the Ministry of Agriculture has not destroyed them speedily.

It seems that it's too much trouble to strictly examine every piece of cargo for noxious and poisonous insects, reptiles and other pests nowadays. Our country has been well protected by the vigilance of its servants all the years of my lifetime (67 years) but it seems that now, we can look forward to more and more overseas pests becoming established in what was a unique country. It makes my blood boil!
B Lindsay

Alright! Who was it?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

M. Jean-Bernard Lacroix
Ty-Hoant
Guerngat
29136 Plagonnec
France

Dear Sir

I would like to exchange insect material with amateur entomologists in New Zealand and Australia.

My interests are in Coleoptera and specifically Carabidae, Cinindelidae, Scaritidae, Cerambycidae (all sub-families), Scarabaeidae, Cetoniinae, Rutelinae, Melolonthidae, Coprophages, Lucanidae, Buprestidae, Dytiscidae and Hydrophilidae.

Other groups of interest are Dermaptera, Lepidoptera (Papilionidae, Nymphalidae, Pieridae). Arachnida(Scorpionida). All families or genera are of interest in these latter groups.

I can offer in exchange many orders of insects of the world fauna in general.

Yours sincerely

Jean-Bernard Lacroix

DSIR
Entomology Division
Private Bag, Auckland

Dear John

WETA VOL.7 No. 2

Horticulture Group of Entomology Division DSIR is working or has recently worked on the following topics in the list:

Biology and Ecology 16,17,20,21,22,26,33,47,51,54,61 (mainly Rearing Group, E.D.)

Control 9,10,11,12,13,14,18,21 (major project), 28

Economic Entomology 7,11

Inventories, Surveys, Lists 15

If your readers consult our Annual Report the projects involved will be found with more specific information.

Many of the topics listed are very broad and our work is then only a small contribution to an enormous field. In this respect it does not seem useful to include very broad topics in lists of this kind.

Entomology Division is working on quite a number of other topics in the list and doubtless you will hear from other Group Leaders about this.

Kind regards.

C.H. Wearing
Leader
Horticulture Group

****

OTAGO PASTORAL LEASE RESEARCH

The Land Settlement Board has recently resolved to investigate the conservation and recreational values of pastoral lease land. The task of identifying representative examples of tussock grassland for possible conservation is being approached on a systematic basis within ecological regions and districts, according to a method known as Protected Natural Areas Programme, developed by the Biological Resources Centre. This summer the protected natural areas team is in the Old Man Range Ecological District.

In association with the protected natural areas programme the Department of Lands and Survey is preparing an inventory of Biological and Cultural values of pastoral leases in Otago. The aim of the inventory is to identify what is known and not known about biological values in Otago.

The inventory seeks to identify locations relating to the following:

1. Rare, Endangered - native plants and plant communities
   - native insects
   - native wildlife
   - wetlands

2. Unusual
   - plant communities
   - landform patterns
   - geological features
   - scenic vistas
   - soil patterns/associations
   - wetlands

3. Representative examples of tussock grasslands, wildlife habitats, landform features, soil associations etc, that have survived human modification and remain relatively unmodified.

4. Distributional and altitudinal limits of
   - native plants and native plant communities
   - native insects
   - native wildlife

The Department is aware that much of this information exists in unpublished notes and reports and general knowledge of individuals. It is not possible for us to locate and visit individual people, accordingly we would be grateful if anyone has any information pertaining to the above, or ideas of where to obtain it.

Information should include: grid references NZMS 1,
scientific significance of identified values,
current and/or deserved protection status,
current and potential threats,
known distribution limits, and
degree of modification.

To determine what is not known about Otago, it is necessary to identify areas that have been studied, and to what extent they have been studied, so by a process of elimination, areas that have been little studied or not at all will become apparent. The Department would like to hear from anyone who has studied or made collections of the above values. Specifically we would like to know, the study boundary, results, the scientific importance of what was found, and the extent of the research.

For further information and all correspondence please contact:

The Commissioner of Crown Lands
Department of Lands and Survey
Box 896
DUNEDIN

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NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

The big event of the entomological year in Australia is the 2-3 day Annual General Meeting and conference of the Australian Entomological Society. These residential meetings have been growing in popularity and normally attract more than a hundred participants. This year's conference was the 15th consecutive meeting and was held at Mildura in the State of Victoria over the period May 12-15.

The meeting heralded a move of the Society's executive from Sydney to Canberra where it will now be centred on the CSIRO Division of Entomology. All Society correspondence should be addressed to the new Secretary, Dr P B Carne, CSIRO Division of Entomology, GPO Box 1700, Canberra ACT 2601.

An Australian visitor to New Zealand in April was Dr. Tom Woodward who enjoyed a couple of weeks with his wife looking up old friends and places. Originally a New Zealander, Tom has recently retired after 30 years lecturing entomology at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. He has shifted to post-retirement quarters at the Queensland museum where he continues his research on systematics of Heteroptera as an Honorary Associate.

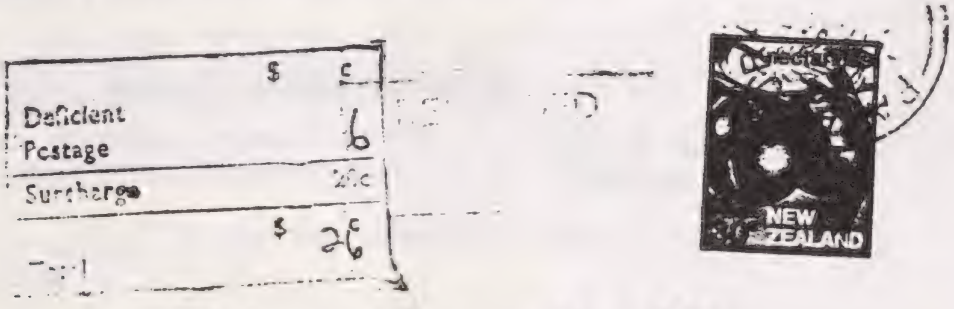
Geoff Monteith
AUSTRALIAN CORRESPONDENT

THE POOR POSTMAN!

O R Green

Plant Health Station, MAF, Private Bag Auckland

From time to time people, especially from overseas, are confused by our New Zealand postal addresses and what with the odd typing error creeping in, it's a wonder some mail ever reaches its destination. We have heard of overseas mail addressed to "Private Bay" (what a nice thought) and "Private bog" (not such a nice thought) and one reply came to a "Techical affairs Dept." having mistaken the signature of a technical officer. In a recent PSA circular our station was referred to as "Planthouse Station". Then there was the person who wrote from another country saying "I would like to come and visit you in your Private bag" (but that's getting a little too close for comfort!) It is always fun to be addressed as "Dr" when you're really not, or "Mr" when you are really "Mrs" and vice versa and "Entomology" must be one of the most mis-spelt words in the English language* But the address on this envelope must surely take the cake.....



Antomology Sect°on
Dr Baker
Plant Help Stat°on
MAS Pr°vate Bag
Auckland

Some plants do need help we know, however, this person was not making and enquiry about ants to the Ministry of agriculture and S.....?

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**Tenquist is the most mis-spelled name in the English language - here are some recent examples:*

Tindquist Tenpuist Teaquist teaquast Tanquist Trenquist Temquist Tenkuist Tenkist Tenkquist Tinqwist Tanke Tequist Tenquint Tarquist Tenequist Penquist Teaquist Tenquot Kenquist Zenquiet Teniquist Fenduist Telwenkiste Tonquist Tendquist Tnquist Tenqurist Tanqust Perguist Tenquiss Tanguist Tenquice

DISPLAY BOX

EXHIBITS AT RECENT AUCKLAND BRANCH MEETINGS

24:08:83 Insects collected on a recent field trip to Matuku Reserve (Olwyn Green). Museum insect collection (Keith Wise - speaker).

28:09:83 Native bush harvestman (O.Green). Leafroller specimens and photographs (Chris Green - speaker).

26:10:83 51 identified species of moths from Matuku Reserve (C.Green). A live female banded tunnelweb spider in a terrarium (Mavis Lessiter). Live colydiidae: *Rhitidinotus squamulosus* (O.Green). 12 spp. live spiders, 1 box of dry-mounted spiders and assorted harvestmen (O.Green - speaker).

29:10:83 Insects found in or near Matuku Reserve, ENT. SOC. display (C.&O.Green). Photo and map displays showing history of the reserve and work done there (other natural history societies).

23:11:83 East African giants of the insect world (John Clearwater). "Smelly Insects": staphylinidae and tenebrionidae including live adults and larva of *Artystona* spp. (O.Green). Local beetles (Stephen Thorpe).

07:12:83 Emerged cocoon of silk moth: *Dictyoploca simla* from Waiheke Is. (Trevor Saunders). Comparative display of saturniidae; cryptic colouration, warning colours & mimicry in insects (secretary).

22:02:84 Photos and specimens of stick insects egg to adult including moulted skin (Pam Walsh). Dry-mounted male and female wood wasps and female horntail parasites from Tokoroa (Rebecca Hassall). Mounted and labelled lucanidae including *Syndesus cornutus* and scarabaeidae (S.Thorpe). Mounted and labelled beetles with ID chart, collected locally (Wayne Eivers). Live devil's coachhorse beetle (R.Hassall) Live oedemeridae: *Parisopalpus nigronotatus*, (O.Green). South Island insects from holiday trip (Mark Buchanan). Poster display (secretary). Trip to Waikato; insects, maps, photos (C.&O.Green, M. Buchanan). Pacific insects (Peter Maddison-speaker).

NEWS FROM AUCKLAND

A field trip to Matuku Reserve led by Nicholas Martin, with specific reference to the swamp area was undertaken in August. Another objective was to note points of entomological interest for the coming open day. Pre-set pitfall traps were cleared and wet nets and trays used to examine water and algae samples from the marsh. A colony of giraffe weevils was found on a karaka tree and numerous larval mines seen.
Also in August, Keith Wise hosted a visit to the Auckland Institute and War Memorial Museum where he outlined the history of the Entomology section; its collection, publications and research projects. Members were shown around the collection room with its fascinating assortment of cabinets and store boxes.

In September a light trapping evening to Miranda with an over night stay was not well supported, least of all by the weather man! Nevertheless, the hardy few continued with valuable field work for the survey of the reserve, adding new locality records for the list of species being compiled for Miranda. Two weeks later, a field trip to the Waitakere dam site was led by Claude Buchanan A leisurely walk down to the dam, lunch at Streamline Track, then a walk along Fenceline track with the most exciting finds of the day being an adult twospined weevil, plus larvae and freshly emerged adult longhorns. This was the first ALL AMATEUR activity for the branch.

"Apple Leafrollers" was the title of a talk given by Chris Green of Auckland University. Chris covered aspects of his work comparing three species of leafroller: Epiphyas postvittana Ctenopseustis obliquana and Planotortrix excessana; and Stathmopoda "skelloni" illustrated with slides, overheads, specimens and photographic display.

Light trapping was well supported at the Matuku Reserve in October - and well rewarded, with an undescribed species of Declana and most northerly record of Tatosoma alta (both Lepidoptera: Geometridae) being found by Chris Green. A list of all lepidoptera collected at this reserve is presently being compiled for publication in the "Weta" Also in October, a "Fill-in" speaker, Olwyn Green from the Plant Health Stn of MAF Auckland (Thats me!) spoke on "Introducing Common Spiders" (To members of the Branch - not into NZ!) Slides, common names and live specimens helped to introduce some and re-aquaint us with others. On the 29th of October, we again visited the Matuku Reserve, this time for a joint meeting of Natural History Societies to officially launch the combined survey of the reserve, Each group set up displays and John Staniland of Forest and Bird Protection Society gave an opening address. Small groups with members from each discipline set off on a tour which was quicker than usual with a thunderstorm sending us scampering back to the hut for lunch. Only a few hopefuls waited for weather to clear for some afternoon work.

Chrisanthi Gnanasunderam from the Entomology Division, DSIR talked to us about "Smelly Insects" or the chemical defence secretions of tenebrionid and staphylinid beetles at our November meeting. The wind tunnel demonstration of insect pheromones was cancelled, but a very sucessful sales table raised just over $30.

Also in November, we had a weekend trip to the Waikato. This was hosted by Hugh Oliver of the Insect Control and Organic Chemistry Group,MAF Ruakura. It was a weekend filled with swapping knowledge of insects, with six members from Auckland and four from the Waikato. We beat and netted our way along the Hakarimata track, Kauri Flat and north of Raglan Harbour. Perfect weather-watch for our trip report in a future Weta.

Derek Russell from Auckland University was another "fill-in" speaker. He spoke on "Cryptic Colouration in Insects, Defense against Bird Predators and Insects' Revenge!" at our December meeting. His amusing and well illustrated account covered camouflage,warning colours, mimicry, colour 'freaks' and bird parasites.

At our AGM on 22nd February 1984 the following officers were elected:

Peter Maddison	Chairman
Olwyn Green	Secretary
Chris Green	Treasurer
Claude Buchanan	Committee
Ruud Kleinpaste	"
Garth Allen	"
Mark Buchanan	Junior Rep.

After the AGM, Peter Maddison from Entomology Division, DSIR addressed us on "The Adventures of a Pacific Wanderer" (no relation to the Monarch butterfly). He outlined his work in entomology and insect pest control of major food crops in the Pacific.

Olwyn Green
AUCKLAND CORRESPONDENT

****

SUB COMMITTEE AND BRANCH REPORTS TABLED AT THE AGM OF THE SOCIETY

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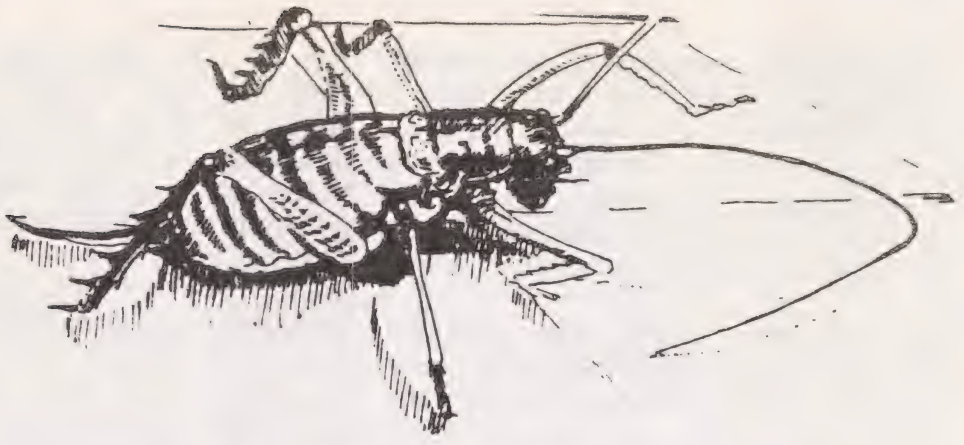
The following reports were tabled at the AGM of the NZ Entomological Society at it's Annual Conference held in Dunedin in May, 1984.

1. Education Sub-committee
2. Wellington Branch
3. Dunedin Branch
4. Auckland Branch
5. Bibliography report
6. Editor' report (NZ Entomologist)
7. Conservation Sub-Committee report
8. Royal Society Member bodies Representative's report
9. 21st Anniversary research fund, grants and Awards
10. Research projects continuing and completed

A report from Palmerston North branch was not available for inclusion in the reports section at time of going to press.



EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

The committee did not meet this year but is keeping a watching brief (which roughly translated means that if some briefs turn up we will watch them) on proposed posters; particularly the Waitomo caves poster which is still in the very early preparation stage.

The big event of this committee's year was the appearance of the Research Topics list in a special issue of the Weta. In all, 188 topics are listed, under 6 major headings, with indexes to subject organisms and to hosts, localities, sites and predators.

Copies have been sent to the Royal Society, The Ecological Society, Forest and Bird, Nature Conservation Council, Commission for the Environment, Biological Resources Centre as well as a number of MPs; Dr Shearer, Mrs Shields and Mr Elworthy.

The second issue of BioCom, newsletter of the Federation of NZ Biological Societies, appeared in April. Although not strictly connected with entomological educational matters, it deals generally with communication between biologists and attempts to educate them in the ways and interests of other biologists. The Federation through its newsletter can only be viable if it has the support of each of its readers and I take this opportunity to remind you of the need for your voices to be heard through BioCom.

Allen Heath.

WELLINGTON BRANCH

Annual Report 1983/84

Activities at this branch have been in abeyance for most of the last year. A meeting was held at Victoria University on 17th April 1984 to discuss the future of the branch. Fourteen members attended and there were no apologies. In addition to a talk given by Bill Chisolm on the biology and ecology of the burrowing mayfly, ways of maintaining branch activities were discissed. John Grehan who had acted as secretary from the branches' inception and who had done an excellent job, is unable to carry on his duties. Unfortunately no volunteer could be found to take over from John.

The members decided that rather than have regular meetings, the branch would be better to operate on an ad-hoc basis, such that if an interesting speaker was in the district, or someone had information they wished to impart, then a meeting could be called.

George Gibbs is to be the main linkman, because the University is likely to have more potential speakers than other institutions. In addition, Ricardo Palma, Susan Millar, Bob Brock, Mary McIntyre, Allen Heath and perhaps two others, yet to be approached, will be contact persons for their various places of work, and will look out for speakers also.

All members will be sent a membership list so as to make contact and communications easier.

Allen Heath,

DUNEDIN SECTION

CHAIRMANS REPORT 1983-84

The Dunedin Section has once again had a varied and enjoyable year and look forward to the Entomological Society's Annual conference in May to provide the highlight. This is an excellent opportunity for local members who either don't belong to the National body or cannot justify travelling ro annual conference venues, to meet and learn from their colleagues.

The years programme of evening meetings and field trips provided a good range of topics and a variety of activities catering for all members. Some experimenting with night-time insect searching and having two shorter talks, were tried with mixed sucess. Graeme Mason gave an excellent introduction to land molluscs in this country early in our year's programme while a slide-tape show on alpine grasshoppers was well received and flushed out several interested non-members. Lloyd Esler talking on making insect models shared a colourful evening with Malcolm Foord who showed startling slides of insects in Nigeria. Earlier this year, Dr Ted Nye enthralled us with his knowledge of the life and world around Linnaeus, while lately Dr Leader told and showed us the results of his work on alpine insect physiology. Field trips were organised to the Blue Mountains, Kawarau Gorge, Mt Nimrod, Remarkables and locally to Heyward Point and Ross Reservoir.

Solid work by the secretary and a few helpers has kept the sale of books and posters ticking over and consequently our bank balance has remained healthy. The sale of 120 butterfly charts arising from a free advertisement on the Wildtrack television programme certainly helped too.

Membership stands at 48 with 6 members joining this financial year. An encouraging position to be in.

It is my pleasure to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their time and effort and the rest of the members for their support during this past, most exciting year.

Brain Patrick.

AUCKLAND BRANCH

Auckland Branch has 81 financial members!

of which:
- 35 belong to the parent body
- 73 are local members (25 from Mt Albert)
- 8 are from outside the Auckland metropolitan area.
- 11 are junior members.

Meeting attendance:

Averages 20 for evening meetings and 9 for field trips.

Monthly meetings:

Are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Field trips:

Or ID sessions are arranged almost every month .

The Year's programme:

Is set in advance and printed copies are circulated to members as well as used in advertising.

Newsletters:

Are sent to members approximately every 3 months.

Various handouts:

Have been prepared to assist amateur members with various aspects of the hobby.

Sales table:

Of entomological equipment and publications has been very sucessful.

Display table:

At meetings has proved popular with a variety of items brought in, as recorded in the WETA.

Various quizzes and competitions:

Have been organised and a certificate was designed for winners.

Work continues on a joint natural history societies survey of several local reserves.

Overall, the branch is in a very good financial position with a slight increase in funds this year.

Auckland Branch activities are recorded in the WETA.

Olwyn Green.

BIBLIOGRAPHY REPORT 1984

Steady progress has been made during the past year. The processing of theses at Massey University and the University of Waikato was completed by MissJocelyn Neutze with the support of a $3000 Lottery Fund grant and six people, employed for six months under the PEP scheme, processed a further 4,500 references and carried out much checking. We are greatly indebted to Chris Green who organised and co-ordinated this work. His efficiency and grasp of the problems have been indispensible. During the 1983/84 summer vacation the DSIR Entomology Division provided a vacation student, Miss Catherine Crowe who processed most of the 1983 literature for us. Her Contribution is also greatly appreciated.

The data base of approximately 8500 references continues to be used sucessfully on a trial basis. The number of searches remains fairly steady at approximately 100 a year. No problems arose. We are unwilling to update the data base and add additional information until a suitable computer programme is available on the DSIR network.

Much checking and veryifying remains to be done as well as a certain amount of processing of additional material. As there is probably at least 8 months full time work for one person here, we are seeking financial help to complete the project to the point where the full data base of approximately 14,000 references is ready for computer type-setting. We are also seeking a grant to assist with publication.

Thereafter the main problems will be regular updating and development, and encouraging you to use it in full.

G W Ramsay
T K Crosby
C H Wearing

EDITOR'S REPORT

The main publication produced this year was the New Zealand Entomologist 7 (4). At 154 pages it was much longer than originally anticipated. Part of the reason for the length was that the index required 20 pages; and this is a reflection on the variety and amount of material published in volume 7.

Volume 8 is with the printers. Up to the end of October sufficient papers for about 60 printed papers had been submitted; now the length will be 100 pages plus an index. The volume will be sewn and bound, which means that writing can be placed on the bound edge as with most publications nowadays.

The number of papers submitted for the journal is more than sufficient for an issue, and already papers are being deferred or suggestions given as to where they might be published with fewer delays. Priority continues to be given to concise papers from members.

It is now feasible to consider computer typesetting from papers submitted on floppy disks where authors have suitable facilities for this. The actual methods for making transfers to the Printer's machinery still need to be fully proven.

No bulletins were published during the year. However, emphasis was placed on publicising the publications already available. It has been satisfying to read favourable reviews of the Society's bulletins in many diverse overseas

publications.

No progress has been made with the Helen Dasent bulletin on entomology books for children, but action is expected very soon. Mrs Olwyn Green is preparing a manuscript on insect collecting techniques.

Mr Bruce Given submitted a manuscript for consideration on "Insects, plants and Man". Planning of the Waitomo caves poster is well advanced. A new edition of the popular butterfly chart should be considered.

Again, I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Dr Ross Galbreath in editing, many referees of manuscripts(who probalby wish to remain anonymous), Mr Des Helmore for figure layouts, and Mrs Brenda May for distributions and dealing with some manuscripts.

T K Crosby
Editor.

CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT 1983-4

Following a meeting on 16 May 1983 the committee has lost the valued services of John Grehan and Bill Winstanley but has been joined by Abdul Moeed, Barry Stephenson and Murray Potter. Barbara Barratt's resignation as convenor was reluctantly accepted.

The major part of the committee's work has again been to critically evaluate various land management schemes following the principle that the best way to proctect the species is to protect the habitat.

1. The committee supported the Waitutu State Forest National Park Proposals- providing what entomological information was available on type localities etc - emphasising the risks involved in opening up the area and especially opposing roading through State Forest Land even if the National Park proposal does not proceed.

2. We commented on the Draft Governemnt policy for the Management of NZ Wetlands, which as an overview document, seems very satisfactory - it remains to be seen just what practical policy will emerge from it.

3. The Punakaiki National Park Proposal was heartily endorsed in relation to the high levels of local endemism and the scientific interest of the fauna of the cave systems.

4. A full submission was prepared on the Snares Islands National Reserves Management Plan emphasising the importance of insect quarantine and the significance of effective rat quarantine for many species, especially the ground dwelling flightless endemics; this involved opposing the issue of mooring permits. As usual the insect fauna receives an"also ran" treatment in the plan. The idea that 'status of the invertebrate species is largely unknown' was corrected and the submission pressed for a much fuller consideration of the needs of the considerable list of invertebrate endemics. Repeated pressure for the inclusion of an invertebrate specialist on the Outlying Islands Reserves Committee has again proved fruitless. In summary: "The Entomological Society hopes that the Department will not consider that measures which merely hope to delay the colonisation by rats or other alien organisms are an acceptable compromise between the economic aspirations of a few and the need to protect the unique fauna of the Snares".
Events have subsequently shown the value of such submissions with mooring permits now issued for only four boats only and these to lapse if not used for one season.

5. Following the Snares issue the committee made a number of comments pertinent to invertebrate conservation on the Rodent Quarantine on Island Reserves discussion paper - especially in relation to landing, mooring and boat inspection procedures.

6. We are liaising with Federated Mountain Clubs and associated bodies over the alienation of Crown Pastoral Leasehold Land.

Copies of all documents and submissions were available at the May 1984 conference.

I would like to thank the members of the Conservation sub-committee for their work during the year and to encourage members of the society to offer assistance, advice and expertise and to help in identifying areas in which the sub-committee should be active.

Derek A Russell
Convenor

ROYAL SOCIETY MEMBER BODIES REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

The Member Bodies Committee met on May 1st, 1984.

Election of Officers (3 year term)

Member Bodies Fellows of Council:	Prof R D Batt Dr I Skinner
Member Bodies Councillors:	Dr H Smith Dr D W Featherston
Management Committee:	Dr A C G Heath Dr D H Percival Dr V Neal

Vice Chairman and NZ Delegate to ANZAAS Council:

Prof R D Batt (Massey)

ANZAAS Congress

It is planned to hold this at Massey University in late January 1987.

Prince & Princess of Wales Science Award Scheme

The first set of 5 Awards have been made and a second set is about to be announced. Contributions to the fund have been $25,000 from Government, $7,000 from Member Bodies of R.S., $100,000 over the next three years from Industry. Entomological Society's contribution to the end of April has been $73. Dr Bollard (President) mentioned that he had found it an advantage, when approaching Industry, to be able to say that both government and scientists had contributed.

National Science Plan

Dr R.B. Miller, DSIR, addressed the meeting on this subject and described the plan as a national medium term strategy for science and technology prepared from submissions made to the National Research Advisory Council (to government). He said that it was best described as a strategy rather than a plan and that it would be under annual review for some years to come. For this reason further submissions are both worthwhile and welcome.

R.G. Ordish,

May 3rd, 1984.

21st ANNIVERSARY RESEARCH GRANTS - 1984 AWARDS

Dr V B Meyer Rochow:
$300 for a study of visual perception and eyes in the giant cave harvestman Megalopsis sp.

Mr R Archibald and Mr B Patrick:
$250 for costs involved in collecting Wiseana sp. from Okawa over a period of 180 days, to determine the pattern of flight periods of the 3 species present.

Mr M Kirman:
$350 for a comprehensive survey of leaf litter Aradids (Hemiptera, Heteroptera in Northland.

Dr J C Watt:
$500 to help with costs involved in a study of NZ and related beetles in institutions in the USA.

Auckland Branch:
$132 as financial assistance for housing the Auckland Branch Insect collection; for purchase of store boxes and display cabinets.

RESEARCH PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING 1983 - 84

Miss A K Walker:

A 2 year study of the beech scale has been completed. Data have been accumulated on life cycle details, recognition of various stages without a microscope, parasites and predators and a comparison between the two collection sites.

This work will be published in the "NZ ENTOMOLOGIST".

RESEARCH PROJECTS STILL CONTINUING

Mr D Russell (for Auckland branch):
1983-84 was not as sucessful as the previous year with fewer nest-searching queens. It is intended to continue this work for one further season.

Mr D R Gibbs:
Work is continuing in determining territorial behaviour of spiders, using Lycosa sp. instead of the original Uliodon sp.

Mr T H Davies:
Continuing trapping of a wide range of species in Malaise traps. Insects are sorted into groups and sent to appropriate entomologists for identification. A display of insects has been set up locally for the Hawkes Bay Branch of the Royal Society.

Reports have not yet been received from Miss J Smith, Mr L.de Betham Anderson or Mr M Mclea. Mr A Savill has only recently begun work on his project.

Susan Millar
Secretary.

FEDERATION OF NEW ZEALAND BIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

In July 1983 the Federation of NZ Biological Societies came into being simultaneously with the production of BioCom, a newsletter for biological communication. The first issue of BioCom summarized the events leading up to the formation of the Federation, but briefly it began because of a perceived need for a collective voice and/or organization for NZ biologists. The newsletter was to act as an advertising medium to let biologists know of meetings around the country, to publish names and address of societies to encourage intersociety contact and perhaps act as a forum for issues affecting biologists.

The first printing of BioCom was 4500 copies, this being based on the membership listings of the 14 societies considered to be sufficiently biological to be interested in a federation. The following 14 had expressed an interest in the formation of some sort of group representative of biologists, in the early stages of preliminary discussions: NZ Society for Parasitology; NZ Marine Sciences Society; Systematics Association of NZ; NZ Ecological Society; NZ BioChemical Society; NZ Society of plant Physiologists; Entomological Society of NZ;(These six are represented on the steering committee) Ornithological Society; Horticultural Society; Institute of Agricultural Science; Genetical Society; Limnological Society; Physiological Society; Microbiological Society. Of these 14, only nine eventually paid subscriptions: Parasitology, Marine Sciences, Systematics, Plant physiology, Animal Production, Entomology, Limnology, Biochemistry and Genetical Society.

The cost of printing BioCom made us rethink the circulation list in the light of that response and, in addition, I had heard that quite large numbers were left around in a number of institutions and were going unclaimed. Part of the problem was that the RSNZ, who does our mailing, often did not have an up to date membership list for some societies and for others e.g the Ornithological Society, had no list at all. In an attempt to solve this problem a letter was sent out to 16 societies, the original 14 plus the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists (ASCEP) and the Society for Biomedical Research, asking for membership lists; Only 5 replied: ASCEP, Systematics, Entomological Society, Limnology, Parasitology.

Until we have a complete membership listing we can only save wastage piecemeal. For a start we have deleted postings to people with multiple membership, although this is of limited value only with the small number of membership lists received. In addition we have decided to leave out the bulk of the ornithological Society posting, mainly because they have no complete membership list and also most of their 1300 or so members are amateurs. BioCom will be sent to the professional ornithologists as only they should have need of the newsletter. We may have to consider culling a few other societies on the basis of (1) non receipt of subscriptions or (2) non receipt of a membership list, both of which could indicate lack of interest and/or support. I appreciate that some societies only deal with business on an annual basis. However, in a situation where a decision is required to spend $10 and send a membership list, then perhaps a couple of phone calls or letters between executive members could solve the problem without the need to wait for a full AGM.

It is also possible that some societies do not produce a newsletter; neither, perhaps, do they have a membership list.

BioCom and the Federation are financially secure for at least one more year because of the generous support of Merck,Sharp and Dohme AgVet who provided $400 this year and will do the same again next year. There is a good chance of continued support. This money, together with the $10 per society annual subscription will keep the newsletter afloat. The subscription has been kept unrealistically low so as to remove any impediment to joining the federation. To be self-sustaining on subscriptions alone would require, at today's printing costs, about $30 per society assuming a membership of 14, $45 if only the sub-paying 9 are involved. Perhaps not very high, but some smaller societies may find it a hardship. (No account has been taken of typing charges or postage in this costing.)

Well, were do we stand now? It is apparent that BioCom is being read and the response to the questionaire of 172 replies so far is heartening. I would like representatives of all relevant biological or biologically inclined member bodies who may wish to join the Federation to approach your executive and give them and your membership a chance to consider affiliation and ensure, where possible, that subscriptions are paid, membership lists sent out or some sort of contact promising support is made.

Allen Heath.

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MORE AUCKLAND BRANCH NOTES

Graeme Ramsay, Entomology Div, DSIR was our guest speaker in March and talked to us about "Springboks of the Insect world", the new species of Mantid first found in the Auckland suburb of New Lynn in 1978. His talk was illustrated with slides, drawings and live specimens to compare it with the praying mantis.

A very sucessful field trip to Omeru reserve, Kaipara was led by Olwyn Green - The reserve is administered by Rodney County Council and is a mixture of native trees, pasture and includes a bush walk and waterfall with a swimming hole. A feature is a Maori Pa site and kumara pits. The area is grazed and much modified.

During April we made a field trip to Pollen Island. This trip was led by Chris Green as part of a light trapping survey undertaken by the Auckland branch. The trip added a number of new records to the list of species for Pollen Island.

Another field trip, this time during the day was led by Garth Allen when we went to Tahuna Torea on the Tamaki estuary. It was an interesting day with a variety of vegetation types to explore. The Chinese paper wasp was very noticable.

Our evening meeting in May was an ID session, using the reference collection from the Plant Health Station at Mt Albert. We also held a "Spider Web competition" - to see whether we could find out what sorts of insects are caught in webs, and where possible identify the spider responsible for the web. - Spiders have been catching insects a lot longer than Entomologists have!(nice one)

Continued on page 57

J.D. Tenquist, Editor
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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

The 'Weta' is a scientific supplement. Editing is kept to a minimum and authors are responsible for the accuracy of their statements. Manuscripts, where possible should be typed double-spaced, on Standard A4 paper, and on one side of the page only.

Authors with access to typing services are requested to supply manuscripts single spaced on A4 paper, using a typeface with ten characters to the inch.

High contrast black and white photos or penned line drawings are acceptable. Closing date for copy is 20th February and 20th August each year. Manuscripts received after those dates may be held over until the following issue.

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